



Public Meeting of the Howard County Commission on Disability Issues  
Howard Building, Columbia/Ellicott Rooms 1<sup>st</sup> Floor  
3430 Courthouse Drive, Ellicott City, MD 21043

## Meeting Minutes

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**Monday, June 25, 2018**  
**Commission Meeting: 6:30 to 8:30 PM**

Present: Heidi Burghardt  
Nicole Czarnecki  
Elliott Finkelstein  
Arthur Gold  
Martin Jones  
Leslie Kornreich  
Doug Lea  
Bridget McCarthy  
Diane Mikulis  
Marian Vessels  
Karen Wood

Absent (Excused): Riffat Ashai  
Cynthia Coburn  
Andrea Kolp  
Chelsea Stanton

Staff: Michelle Henry  
Erica Lewis  
Terry Zeigler

Interpreters: Ann Myers  
Becky Frey

Guests: Charles Smith  
Katie Collins-Ihrke  
Melissa Rosenberg  
Susan Potts

## **I. New Business**

### **A. Call to Order, Welcome and Introductions**

- Meeting called to order 6:30 p.m.

### **B. Howard County Council Resolution 23-2018 tasks the Commission with studying the County's ability to meet the needs of residents with disabilities in education, employment, housing, transportation, and peer relationships, and with submitting a report containing recommendations on best practices.**

1. In order to complete the work required by CR 23-2018, the Commission is meeting with people with disabilities, stakeholders / local organizations that serve people with disabilities and their families. Today's stakeholders: Katie Collins-Ihrke, Executive Director of Accessible Resources for Independence Inc, and Susan Potts, Therapeutic Recreation Manager for the Department of Recreation & Parks.
2. Erica reported that during August and October, the Strategic Planning workgroup meeting that takes place at 6:00 pm on Commission meeting dates will be cancelled. In its place, meetings with stakeholders / local organizations will be scheduled.
3. Erica reported that online surveys are being developed to gather feedback from people with disabilities, their families, educators, and service providers.
4. Each Commission member is asked to research and submit information on one of the five focus areas identified in CR 23-2018. Erica passed around a sign-up sheet. Commission members are asked to submit information by 9/4/2018.

### **C. Minutes for 4-23-2018 – tabled until August meeting.**

### **D. Awards Program takes place on Thursday evening, 10/4/2018, 7:00 pm. Erica reported that the Roger Carter Community Center's meeting rooms have been reserved for the event.**

Nomination packets were distributed to all Commission members. A news release from Howard County Government announcing the awards program is expected to be sent out on 6/26/2018.

Suggestions are needed for a theme and a speaker for the awards program. Erica requested that suggestions be submitted no later than Monday, 7/16/2018.

## **II. Old Business**

### **A. Recommendation made on 12/4/2017 to re-name the Commission. Nothing to report.**

### **B. Training and support used to inform personnel about the rights of individuals who are blind or deaf and/or who may be accompanied by service animals. Tabled until August meeting.**

## **III. Announcements**

Marian reported that she completed a Transportation course sponsored by the Central Maryland Transportation Alliance. As part of the coursework, she and other stakeholders are hosting an accessible transportation forum offering information on all forms of transportation and also offering an opportunity for members of the public to provide input. Marian suggested that the forum could present an information gathering opportunity for purposes of the CR23-2018 report.

Forum date to be determined, possibly in September. Motion made by Doug for the Commission to co-sponsor the forum and be an active partner in the process. Seconded and passed unanimously.

**IV. Adjournment**

Meeting adjourned 8:45 p.m.

DRAFT

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